

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Course Title	<b>Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber (V150)</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 6</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>20 credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Part-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>12 weeks</b>
Intended Award	<b>Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber V150</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>None</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Must be a registered Nurse;</b></li> <li>• <b>Employer support to undertake the programme;</b></li> <li>• <b>Must have practiced for a sufficient period to be deemed competent by your employer in the area you intend to practice to undertake the programme. This would normally be a minimum of two years;</b></li> <li>• <b>Must intend to practice in an area where there is clinical need for prescribing;</b></li> <li>• <b>An identified Practice mentor (community/independent prescriber) to provide support and opportunities to develop competence in prescribing practice;</b></li> <li>• <b>Nurses must be in a position to prescribe from the community practitioner formulary on completion of the course;</b></li> <li>• <b>Provide evidence of your ability to study at degree level 6;</b></li> <li>• <b>All employer responsibilities are met (see pre-course information pack for guidance).</b></li> </ul>
Delivering Institution(s)	<b>University of Suffolk</b>

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber V150 course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 6 in the 2019-20 academic year.

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>3</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

<sup>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

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### Course Summary

This course leads to a professionally regulated and recordable prescribing qualification with the NMC giving nurses the entitlement to prescribe from the Community Practitioner Formulary.

It is accessed as a “stand-alone” module for community nurses who are not undertaking the specialist practice community pathway (SCPHN). Nurses on the SCPHN pathway undertake the v100 which leads to the same community practitioner nurse prescriber qualification.

The NMC set the standards for the educational requirements for all non-medical prescribing pathways and this informs the curriculum. These requirements do not call for teaching on specific clinical areas, but some specifics are included but the overall focus is on applying the principles of prescribing to your own specialist clinical area. It is expected therefore that students embrace a high degree of autonomy to apply these principles to the context of their practice. The equal theory practice split is designed to facilitate this approach so the role of the practice-based mentor is paramount.

The combined learning with the v300 independent prescribing course offers student's opportunity to share learning with a diverse selection of other practitioners and this is one of the most valued aspects. In addition some separate teaching sessions specific to the Community prescribers formulary are scheduled for students on the v150 course.

Students are required to attend the university campus for 10 academic days (plus 1 assessment day).

Attendance in school is approximately 1 day per week. A small proportion of the days are allocated as “self- directed leaning days/online learning”, the nature of these will be explained at the start of the course and although you will not be required to attend campus on those particular days they are an integral part of the campus based learning so you do not go into work.

In addition, the equal practice theory split of this course means you are required to organise practice based mentoring for the duration of the course. This support is essential to your development as a prescriber and must be provided by a prescriber. The regulators specify the required time for this practice mentoring, it is 65 hours.

### Course Aims

The education programme aims to prepare nurses to prescribe safely, appropriately and cost-effectively from the community practitioner formulary for nurse prescribers.

### Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber V150 course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

1. Undertake a thorough history, including medication history and current medication (including over-the-counter, alternative and complementary health therapies) to inform diagnosis.
2. Understand and apply the relevant legislation to the practice of nurse/midwife prescribing.

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3. Critically appraise, use sources of information/advice and decision support systems in prescribing practice.
4. Understand the influences that can affect prescribing practice, and demonstrate your understanding by managing your prescribing practice in an ethical way.
5. Understand and apply knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines.
7. Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively.
8. Practise within a framework of professional accountability and responsibility.

### Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards and Competency Frameworks:

- Single Competency Framework (Royal Pharmaceutical Society 2014)
- Standards of proficiency for nurse and midwife prescribers (NMC 2006)

### Course Structure

The Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber V150 comprises ONE module at level 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type <sup>5</sup>
Level 6			
	Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber V150	20	M

### Awards

On successful completion of the course, registrants' details will be put forward to the NMC to be considered for the recordable Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber qualification.

### Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students will be expected to find their own practice mentor. Students will normally be expected to undertake approx. 3 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

<sup>5</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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### Course Assessment

There are three components within the summative (marked) assessment that must be successfully completed to demonstrate that students have met the required learning outcomes relevant to the scope of their prescribing responsibilities to prescribe from the Community Practitioner Formulary, and subsequently have this qualification recorded with the NMC.

1. **Examination** - Pharmacology  
20 short answer questions to test pharmacological knowledge and its application to practice
2. **Examination** - 5 Drug calculations
3. **2 part Portfolio:**
  - 1) Practice - 65 hours of practice supervision must be evidenced within the portfolio.
  - 2) Academic - Key pieces of evidence are required to demonstrate the integration of practice and theory at the required academic level.

Full guidance on portfolio requirements will be given.

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. NMC, GPHC).

### Course Costs

Students undertaking Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber V150 will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Part-time UK/EU	£530 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	Not applicable
Part-time International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

### Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).